Access
News on WorkSafeBC products, programs, and services
September 2005

Streamlining the process

We've made minor changes to your remittance form

When you opened this envelope, you may have noticed that your Employer Remittance Form looks different. We've streamlined the process for filling out and submitting the form. The changes are minor, but they'll help ensure that we get all the information we need to calculate your rate accurately.

Please check the small number on the left side of your form, just above the perforation.

If it says 1820S, you no longer have to transfer the total assessable payroll figure (C) to the payment stub at the bottom. Here's what you need to do:

- **If you pay by mail**: Return the entire form — the top portion as well as the payment stub — to WorkSafeBC (the WCB) using the envelope provided.
- **If you pay at your bank**: Return the payment stub to your bank, and send the top portion to us in the envelope provided or fax it to us at **604 244-6490** or toll-free at **1 888 992-6622**.
- **If you report and pay online or by automated phone system**: You do not need to return any part of the form to us.

(If the number on your form says 1820M instead of 1820S, there are no changes to the remittance process; continue to submit your forms as you always have.)

You can report your payroll and pay your premiums online at **WorkSafeBC.com** or by calling our automated phone system at **604 244-6181** or toll-free at **1 888 922-2768**.

Lower rates projected for 2006

WorkSafeBC (the WCB) is proposing a 3.5 percent decrease in the overall premium rate for employers for 2006, from $1.97 in 2005 to $1.90 in 2006.

Overall, approximately 60 percent of employers will see their base rate decrease or remain the same. Hospitals, long-term care and short-term care facilities, as well as wharf, marine terminal, and stevedoring operations, will see a 30 percent rate reduction. Other industries that will witness significant rate reductions are shipbuilding, universities, electric utilities, supermarkets, and industrial construction and trades.

Rate increases are forecast for general retail, public school districts, department stores, telecommunication services, gas utilities, and general trucking. Trucking does not include dump truck operators, who will see a five percent decrease in rates.

"This is a relatively good news story for B.C. employers because their rates are among the lowest in Canada," says WorkSafeBC chief financial officer Sid Fattedad. In recent years, WorkSafeBC has maintained stable premium rates for employers, at a time when insurance rates for both workers' compensation and general insurance in North America have typically been on the rise.

"Premiums are driven by injury costs," adds Fattedad. "Industries can lower their rates by improving safety and return-to-work programs with effective disability management." To that end, WorkSafeBC has worked with industry to establish safety associations in forestry, construction, agriculture, and the oil and gas industries, and has developed sector-based business teams to work closely with industry and labour groups.

To find out more about the proposed rates in your industry, visit **WorkSafeBC.com**.

New lobby more accessible

The next time you come to the WorkSafeBC (WCB) head office in Richmond, you'll notice a few changes. First, the old Workers' Compensation Board signs are gone, replaced by signage featuring our new name and logo: "WorkSafeBC: Working to make a difference."

Also, we've relocated the main visitor entrance. You'll now enter the Richmond complex via the old rehab centre, straight ahead at the top of the ramp, instead of the old entrance in the large building to the right as you drive in. Just follow the signs.

Our intention is to improve accessibility and provide better customer service. The new lobby, which is wheelchair accessible, has an Internet station, ample seating, tables for more casual meetings, and a coffee kiosk.

We hope that you find the new lobby is a warmer, more inviting environment.

Help fight fraud

Everyone has a stake in fighting workers' compensation fraud because we all end up paying the costs.

Whether it's committed by an employer, worker, health care provider, supplier, or other party, fraud increases the cost of insurance premiums, affects jobs and salaries, and causes unnecessary delays in treating real injuries. Simply put, everyone suffers.

WorkSafeBC (the WCB) doesn't take fraud lightly and neither should you. If you suspect an individual or company of committing fraud, call WorkSafeBC's Special Investigations Branch toll-free at **1 877 523-3315** to make a confidential report, or e-mail **sibinfo@worksafebc.com**.

For more information, including examples of workers' compensation fraud, visit our web site at **www.worksafebc.com/report_fraud/default.asp**.

Partners in road safety

The BC Safety Council, partnering with WorkSafeBC (the WCB) and ICBC, is pleased to announce Mission to Zero, a traffic safety symposium, to be held September 20–25, 2005, at Newlands Golf Course in Langley.

The Symposium will bring together both professionals involved in traffic safety and community groups to review current trends and look for solutions and strategies for safer roads.

For more information, call **604 214-7433** or visit **www.missiontozero.com**.

Together we can make a difference

WorkSafeBC (the WCB) is looking for your advice on how we can improve workplace health and safety in British Columbia.

Members of our Board of Directors and Senior Executive are travelling around the province to meet with groups and representative stakeholders as part of a new Health and Safety Initiative. The purpose is to examine the current and future state of workplace health and safety in B.C. At the same time, they're distributing a series of electronic surveys to seek your ideas and opinions about a broad range of health and safety issues. This is your chance to tell us what prevention efforts are working well and what could be improved in the future.

The consultation process will culminate in a Workplace Health and Safety Symposium in Vancouver on October 13–14, 2005.

For more information on the new Health and Safety Initiative and how you can get involved, visit **WorkSafeBC.com** or call **604 276-3055** (in the Lower Mainland) or **1 800 469-3055** (outside the Lower Mainland).

NAOSHWeek 2005 winners

Thirteen organizations in B.C. have been recognized for their outstanding promotion of workplace health and safety in this year's North American Occupational Safety and Health (NAOSH) Week from May 1 to 7, 2005.

NAOSHWeek is an annual event designed to raise awareness of workplace health and safety issues. Companies of all sizes are encouraged to participate. This year's theme was "Equip. Educate. Empower."

The 2005 winners are:

- **Best Overall** - YVR/Vancouver International Airport Authority in conjunction with Air Canada, Servisair/Globe Ground, World Wide Flight Services, and WestJet
- **Best New Entry** - Winton Global Lumber Ltd.
- **Most Innovative** - YVR/Vancouver International Airport Authority in conjunction with Air Canada, Servisair/Globe Ground, World Wide Flight Services, and WestJet
- **Best Presentation of Theme** - Thrifty Foods #6 James Bay
- **Educational Institutions** - Simon Fraser University
- **Federally Regulated Agencies** - CFB Comox
- **Forestry** - Winton Global Lumber Ltd.
- **Manufacturing** - Pollard Banknote Ltd.
- **Marine** - Washington Marine Group
- **Municipalities** - City of Chilliwack
- **Provincial/Crown Corporations** - B.C. Legislative Assembly
- **Retail** - Thrifty Foods #6 James Bay
- **Small Business** - Sylvan Vale Nursery
- **Tourism/Hospitality** - Canadian Hotel Income Properties (CHIP Hospitality)
- **Transportation of Goods** - Rempel Bros. Concrete Ltd.
- **Transportation of People** - YVR/Vancouver International Airport Authority in conjunction with Air Canada, Servisair Globe Ground, World Wide Flight Services, and WestJet
- **Winner: Fax Draw** - Workers' Compensation Board of B.C., Kamloops area office

Next year's NAOSHWeek will take place from April 30 to May 6. To learn more about the event and how your organization can get involved, visit the NAOSHWeek web site at **www.worksafebc.com/news/campaigns/naosh_week/**

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Access is published by the Communications Services Department of WorkSafeBC — the Workers' Compensation Board of B.C.

This newsletter is also available electronically on the WorkSafeBC web site at www.worksafebc.com/publications/newsletters/access/.

Look for the next issue in December 2005.

WORKSAFE BC
WORKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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